**Sunday July 31 Divine Office Week 2**

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND SAINT CECILIA**

**Parish Administrator: Mgr Francis Jamieson**

**Landline: 01258 452051 Mobile: 07826 732493**

Hospital RC Chaplains:

**Dorchester**: Fr Barry Hallett 01305 255198; **Poole**: Deacon Declan McConville 01202 442167

Newsletter: [newsletterblandfordcatholics@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:newsletterblandfordcatholics@yahoo.co.uk)

Website: [blandfordcatholics.org](http://blandfordcatholics.org/)

Plymouth Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 213227

**Please keep in your prayers: Christina Morley; Chris Brown; Leander; Sandra, Teresa and Tom’s niece, who has a brain tumour; Father Tom and all at the Care Home where he is chaplain; and all families of those suffering at this time.**

**MASS INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF PUBLISHING BUT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE**

**EIGHTEENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C2**

**Saturday July 30 St Peter Chrysologus, Doctor of the Church**

**9.10 9.30am Traditional Latin HOLY MASS**

**5.30pm VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday July 31 9.00am HOLY MASS 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Monday August 1 St Alphonsus Mary de' Liguori, Doctor of the Church (Mem)**

**Tuesday August 2 St Eusebius of Vercelli; St Peter Julian Eymard**

**6.10pm Evening Prayers 6.30pm HOLY MASS**

**Wednesday August 3 St Germanus of Auxerre**

**9.10am Morning Prayers 9.30am HOLY MASS**

**Thursday August 4 St John Mary Vianney (Mem)**

**9.10am Morning Prayers 9.30am HOLY MASS**

**Friday August 5 The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary**

**9.10am Morning Prayers 9.30am HOLY MASS**

**followed by Benediction**

**Saturday August 6 The Transfiguration of the Lord (FEAST)**

**9.10 9.30am Traditional Latin HOLY MASS**

**5.30pm VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday August 7 9.00am HOLY MASS 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**SONGS OF PRAISE** John and Rosie Whittle would very much like to arrange a time of praise and thanksgiving to God for his blessings over the past year or two which, for us, as for many of our church, have involved both profound sorrow and joy in our lives.

Father Francis has kindly agreed to such an event, as we will be moving to Devon during this Summer, for a number of reasons.

The format of this time together will be that of a “Songs of Praise” with hymns chosen by members of the congregation attending with a short reason being given for their choice.

It will be helpful for anyone who may wish to come to let either John or Rosie know within the next week or so, in order to make arrangements. With many thanks. *John and Rosie*

**At 6pm on Friday, August 19th., we are having our own version of Songs of Praise*.***It will be a programme filled by ourselves, a time we can come together just to sing our favourite hymns. You might like to write their numbers on a paper and hand them to Father, or leave them in church, and it would be a nice thing if you said why you have chosen that hymn - one you just like, or has happy memories, or a special meaning for you that you would rather not say. It doesn’t matter too much why because it is just an opportunity to spend an hour singing in a relaxed way and enjoying it.

**A BENEFACTOR** has given us a statue that I shall put up in church this week. It is of **St. Jean-Marie-Baptiste Vianney, the Curé d'Ars** (i.e. the parish priest of Ars).

Around 1830, the village of Ars began attracting huge crowds of visitors each day. Why did thousands of pilgrims come daily to this small village? The pilgrims had no other purpose than to meet its parish priest and especially to have him hear their confession. For this, they came from all over France, waited for hours, sometimes all night. His exceptional holiness and numerous miracles irresistibly attracted men and women of all ages and walks of life in search of the truth.

He had had to overcome numerous obstacles to becoming a priest, mostly because he could not study very well. He exercised intense simplicity, humility, and pastoral zeal to help him transform a miserable village with no religion after the French Revolution into a town attracting thousands of pilgrims a year. He lived in extreme austerity and poverty, and he made his village a fervent and exemplary community. Long before his death in 1859 he was the most famous priest in France. Canonized in 1925 by Pope Pius XI, during the 150th anniversary of his death in 2009, he is now considered the Patron and exemplar of priests worldwide.

In **September and October** this year **THE RELICS OF ST. BERNADETTE** will journey through the United Kingdom. They will be at Portsmouth cathedral from 9.30am on September 8th. until 10.30am on September 9th., and at Plymouth cathedral from 1pm on September 9th. until 12pm on September 10th.

Fr. Francis is sorry that he shall be away on those days, but if anyone would like go and is doing so by car with a seat to spare, please let Fr. Francis know so that a parishioner or two without transport might accompany you.

Christianity is certainly spiritually centred, but we know that the remains of all the dead are surrounded with special care and veneration. In the case of a saint - that is, someone declared by the Church to be holy - his or her mortal remains are associated with the holiness of the souls which await reunion with their bodies in the resurrection.

Contemporary accounts of the devotion Christians pay to the relics (i.e. what the saint has left behind at death) go back to the year 155, when St. Polycarp was martyred Smyrna, in what is now called Turkey. The relics of St. Bernadette are what are called “1st. class relics”, i.e. her body.

You see the priest venerate the altar at the beginning of Mass by kissing it. He is not in fact kissing the altar. He is showing love and respect for the relic of St. Bernadette which lies under the surface of our altar. They are here because our parish is dedicated to Our Lady, who revealed herself to Bernadette at Lourdes. in 1858.

The Church teaches that “the holy bodies of holy martyrs and of the others who dwell with Christ are to be honoured by the faithful”, and the presence of St. Bernadette is a wonderful opportunity to renew the dedication of yourself to Our Lord.

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND – MAY 2023** – Fr. John Rice and Fr. Guy de Gaynesford will be leading a ten day pilgrimage to the Holy Land from **16th - 25th May next year.** The cost is £1,389 per person, and this includes: return flight from London Heathrow to Tel Aviv with El Al • 6 nights in Bethlehem Star Hotel, 3\* or similar standard • 3 nights in Astoria Tiberias 3\* or of similar standard • half board (dinner and breakfast) • entrance fees as per itinerary • transfers between airport and hotel • executive coach for touring • professional local guide • boat ride on the Sea of Galilee • taxis to the summit of Mt Tabor to the Church of Transfiguration • personalised luggage label and badge • hymn booklet and prayer booklet • headsets for touring • check-in luggage 23kg+hand carry • ATOL protection contribution includes half board. For further details and itinerary Tel. 01793 881166 / 07515 819700.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** - £397.84. **STELLA MARIS** - The final total is £404.25.  The money has already been forwarded to Stella Maris so if you still wish to give to the charity please forward a cheque to Stella Maris to the address on the envelopes. *Ruth*

With blessings on every one of our parish family

**Father Francis**

**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST**

**For small businesses**

We pray for small and medium sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities.

***ANY OTHER BUSINESS***

**PARISH BARBECUE** – SUNDAY 14 AUGUST 12.30 for 13.00 – there are just 2 weeks left to purchase tickets for the Barbecue. Adults £10, Children £5. Please also donate bottles (alcoholic, non-alcoholic, other etc) for the tombola stall and other prizes suitable for the raffle. Please ensure that bottle and other prize donations are within the best-before date. Many thanks.  *Anthony*



**KNIT & NATTER** The next meeting will definitely be on **Tuesday August**

**2nd** at 2pm. All welcome!

**We welcome contributions to this newsletter from parishioners - please send in links to websites, hard copy, email pictures, prose or poetry, whether to inform or to entertain..…**

"Advice is something you ask for when you already know the answer but wish you didn't."

- anon, seen on the internet:

(contributed by avis)

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Evil is unspectacular and always human, and shares our bed and eats at our own table.

- W H Auden

(contributed by Avis)

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